

Serial No. 09/930,160
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-32 were pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 14, which are not shown or suggested by the references of record in the application. No new matter is added as support is found at least in the originally filed claims. Dependent claims 2, 14, and 19 are canceled by this Amendment.

New claim 33 is added to provide protection for features of the invention not shown or suggested by the references cited in the September 7, 2004 Office Action. No new matter is added with support being found at least in para. [0036] and Figures 1-4 of the specification.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-18, and 20-33 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the September 7, 2004 Office Action, claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,781 ("Wess") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,388 ("Sprenger"). Claims 2, 14, and 19 are canceled. The rejection of claims 1, 3-13, 15-18, and 20-32 is traversed based on the amendments to claim 1 and the following remarks.

As noted in para. [0003] of the application, the invention is addressing the problems associated with prior E-commerce systems in which a database loader was used to load information but only in the form of tables. With reference to para. [0036], the invention uses an import/export utility that knows nothing of the E-commerce system to deliver information from an external data file to business object that does the "real work" such as performing tasks including adding, deleting, or updating the data. The changes in the data can be performed without requiring the business object to be changed. As shown in Fig. 1, the import/export utility communicates with the business object and gathers the imported file and provides a database that is used during the processing of the import file data by the business object. In this manner, the business object is able to import/export data, such as with relation to an E-commerce system, without use of a standard database loader and, hence, to load data not in the form of a table.

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With this background in mind, claim 1 is directed to a method of processing data with a utility including selecting a file that includes a name of a business object, uploading the file to a server, storing file data in a database of the utility, and performing data processing on the stored data. The data processing is "performed by reading and validating the data, invoking a code included in the business object", with the business object being responsible for the validating. As will become clear, the combination of Wess and Sprenger fail to teach or suggest all of these elements. Hence, the rejection of claim 1 is improper and should be withdrawn.

More specifically, the Office Action cites Wess at col. 6, lines 16-29 for teaching selecting a file that includes a name of a business object. Applicants disagree with this construction of Wess. Wess at col. 2, lines 30-40 makes it clear that its method is address problems associated with having a database with many null data values, and beginning at line 6, col. 4 provides a brief summary of its method that uses a table of defined variable symbols and comparing operations to try to reduce the amount of null data values in its relational databases. Hence, Wess is addressing a different problem than Applicants and uses a different technique to address that problem. In the cited col. 6, lines 16-29, Wess is describing the converting data received at a network interface 112 including "textually-based data objects" into formats expected by the system, but at this citation and elsewhere, Wess fails to teach selecting a file that has a business object name in the file. This named object is then used to perform processing on the data of the file, and Wess fails to suggest that its "data objects" are business objects as defined by Applicants. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable over Wess.

Further, the Office Action in its rejection of claim 2 cites Sprenger at col. 15, lines 25-26 and col. 28, lines 20-42 for teaching invoking a code included in the business object as part of processing the data in the selected and uploaded file. Sprenger does not overcome the deficiencies of Wess discussed above. Also, Sprenger in its Summary and elsewhere makes it clear that its method is a data management method that uses agents and minions (see, Sprenger at col. 8, line 60

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and on for a discussion of agents and minions) to perform various data management processes, but no where in Sprenger is it taught to select a file with a name of a business object and then process data in the selected file using code in the named business object. At the cited portions of Sprenger, the use of objects is described but there is no teaching of a utility uploading a file and then using a business object named in the file to process its data. For this additional reason, claim 1 is believed allowable over the combination of Wess and Sprenger.

Further, the Office Action in rejecting claim 14 admits that Wess fails to teach the business object being responsible for validating the data in the selected file but cites Sprenger at col. 14, lines 59-65 as providing this teaching. However, at this citation, Sprenger is discussing operation of an "EventLogMinion" which does not perform validation of data, and clearly does not teach that the business object is named in the file providing the data. For this additional reason, claim 1 is allowable over the combined teaching of Wess and Sprenger.

Claims 3-13, 15-18, and 20-32 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Conclusions

In view of all of the above, the claims are now believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,



Kent A. Lembke, No. 44,866
Hogan & Hartson LLP
One Tabor Center
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500
Denver, Colorado 80202
(720) 406-5378 Tel
(720) 406-5301 Fax

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